

Clara could play the violin and guitar and had a beautiful voice. She taught her children to sing harmony and Norma and Lorna made their public debut at the age of seven and five years. They have been singing often since that time. Some of their happy childhood memories are gathering on the front porch after sunset with Clara playing the guitar and all of them singing on till dark or Clara with George playing the harmonica to her accompaniment. Her fingers would glide over the guitar strings so fast.

After George's death an old missionary friend of the family, David Abraham Penrod of Wallsburg, who had lost his wife came to call on Clara. They were both lonesome. So, on September 26, 1943, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple for all time. Clara's mother and Clara's husband died in 1948 and 1949 at his home in Pleasant Grove. Until June of 1961 she lived in this little home and now makes her home with her daughters, Mrs. Robert G. Smith of American Fork and Mrs. Clifford G. Baccus of Provo.

She has always been an inspiration to everyone who has ever known her. She was an immaculate homemaker, doing her own cooking, cleaning, and even sewing — this by touch, with her children threading the needle. She made quilts, rugs and even shirts for her little boys when they were small. At 70 she is still young looking. She takes pride in her appearance and always likes to look neat and clean.

George and Clara's children are: Norma, Mary, Lorna, George Lamond, Wess Dwaine.

JOHN ALBERT AND ROSELLA ANN BIGELOW MECHAM

John Albert Mecham, born June 21, 1854, at Lehi, Utah County, Utah. Married May 8, 1872, Wallsburg, Wasatch County, Utah, to Rosella Ann Bigelow, a nurse, and daughter of Asa Elijah and Julia Ann Cook Bigelow, born December 21, 1855, Provo, Utah County, Utah, and died October 28, 1926. John Albert died January 14, 1934, at Provo, Utah.

Their children: Ephraim Albert, John Franklin, Frelia, William Wallace, Alpheus Bingham, Julia Eudora, Annie and Mabel.

JOSHUA MECHAM AND PERMELIA CHAPMAN

Joshua Mecham was born April 12, 1773, at Lyme, New Hampshire, the son of Samuel Mecham and Phebe Main. He was the fifth child in a family of 17 children. All of these children lived to maturity and married. Their mother was praised highly for her care of them. He married Permelia Chapman, daughter of Samuel Chapman and Hannah Fox. No birth date given. Joshua died October 8, 1846, at Bonapart, Van Buren County, Iowa. Permelia died May 19, 1866, at Heber City, Utah.

Joshua and Permelia's family were all born in Canaan, Grafton County, New Hampshire. They moved from there to New York and then on to Mercer, Erie County, Pa., probably in 1827. During the spring of 1836 Joshua came in contact with "Mormon" missionaries and was converted. He and his wife with their sons, Edward, Ephraim, Lewis their wives were baptized and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. Their son Moses, with his family, had previously moved to Iowa in 1836.

It is not clearly known why the letter "a" was dropped in the spelling of Joshua's surname, Meacham, but on the records of the "Mormon" Church, it was spelled that way. Also it is recorded in his patriarchal blessing given by John Smith, September 23, 1845. From this time on all of his descendants have continued to do so, that is, his four sons and their families who were the only ones to join the Mormon faith of his children. They also changed the pronunciation of the name from Meacham (the first syllable rhyming with peach) to Mecham (Me Come).

Joshua, along with others of his family, acted as a body guard to the prophet Joseph Smith, at various times. His two sons Moses and Lewis were called on missions going to two different tribes of Indians. They were very well received and their missions were a success.

After Joshua died, Permelia later came on to Utah traveling with friends and arriving in the fall of 1850. Her son Edward, with his family arrived in 1851. Permelia then lived with Edward and later with her other sons as they came to Utah.

Joshua and Permelia's children were:

Joshua, Samuel, Permelia, Edward, Moses Worthen, Elizabeth, Ephraim, Caleb, Lewis. All these children were born in Canaan, Grafton County, New Hampshire.

LEWIS MECHAM AND WIVES, VASTIA EMILY JOHNSON AND ESTHER HERBERT



Lewis Mecham was born December 18, 1835, at Mercer, Pa., the son of Ephraim Mecham and Polly Derby. With his parents he lived through all the trials in Missouri and during the trek to Utah. He married Vastia Emily Johnson, daughter of Luke Johnson and Susan Pettitt, Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born September 4, 1842 at Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio. She died January 19, 1865, at Rush Valley, Tooele County, Utah. Lewis later married Esther Herbert. She was born February 12, 1851 at Mitchel-Troy, Monmouth, England, a daughter of Thomas Roland Herbert and Esther Lewis. Lewis Mecham died October 14, 1907, and Esther April 19, 1934, both at Wallsburg and they are both buried there.

Lewis and Vastia Mecham came West in 1862 by ox team and settled in Rush Valley with a Johnson family. Here their son Lewis Lafayette Mecham was born on September 30, 1862. Vastia died in 1865. In the spring, Lewis saddled up his horse and with his earthly belongings and his 2 and a half year old son, Lewis "Lafaye" behind him on the saddle, he rode into Provo to his parents' home. They all moved to Wallsburg shortly after.

Here Lewis met Esther Herbert, who was to become his second wife. She was 18½ years old when they were married. They settled on a little farm in Wallsburg. Pre-emption rights were given first, later homestead rights. They homesteaded a farm on Provo River also. This site is under the

Deer Creek Reservoir now. The place on the Provo River had a little lake on it called Lewis Lake, after Lewis Mecham. Esther took "Lafaye" and mothered him as her own. They had a large family and many trials and tribulations, but the Lord blessed them mightily.

When Esther Herbert arrived with her mother, Esther Lewis Herbert, in Wallsburg, they lived in a small fort at the head of spring, so they could use the beautiful clear water. This was for protection from Indians.

After her marriage to Lewis Mecham, their first home was made of cottonwood logs with a dirt floor. The only window was a log that was left out during the day to let the light in. It was put back in place at night to keep the cold out. The fireplace, used for cooking and heating, was made of rocks. Later Lewis Mecham built a large granary and they moved into this. When he threshed he had a bin for the grain in one end of the granary. They built their beds on top of the bin, using mattresses of straw. They also used pillows and feather beds filled with wild duck feathers. One time they had a "bad year," so had to take the straw out of the mattresses to feed the livestock.

Esther was terribly frightened of Indians. When they were living on the Provo River and Lewis had to be away from home, she would take the small children and go up in the foothills until Lewis came home. One day the Indians came into her home and caught her by surprise. The collar of her garments was sticking up above her dress. The Indians, seeing this, said, "Mormon, Mormon," and went away without harming her in any way.

Esther had a very patient disposition. After they were grown, all her children used to go home to visit "mother" on Sunday. While the older folks visited, the grandchildren built playhouses in the willows along the creek. None will ever forget Grandma Esther's good bread, butter and currant jelly sandwiches and her special "English tea biscuits."

During her last few years she lost her eyesight. She was always very patient about it while she had to sit in her big leather-covered rocking chair, until she died when 83 years old.